

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—SUNDAY MATINEE.—AN HOUR IN DEATH.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York Hotel.—THE WILD WALTZ.—THE MILKING PAIL.—SCOTCH BALLOON.—PROMISSES AND PROMISES.

WOODS' THEATRE, Broadway, opposite St. Nicholas Hotel.—LADY'S BATTLE.—KATE O'SHEIL.

GERMAN THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—THE ADVENTURE.

DOWDNEY'S HALL, 305 Broadway.—PROFESSOR HARTZ will perform his MIRACLES.—THE HEAD IN THE AIR.—THE INDIAN BASKET TRICK.—PROTECTOR.

SPRINGWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—JAMES MACCARRON, at 5 o'clock.—CARL WOLFGANG'S LAST SEPTUAGENARY.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 555 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.—THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COFFIN.—HEALTHY CUPID.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COFFIN.—HEALTHY CUPID.

BALLY TROUPE.—FATTY IN PARIS.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 4 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—GRIFFIN & CHRISTIE'S MINSTRELS.—THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COFFIN.—HEALTHY CUPID.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 21 Bowery.—THE VOICED VOICES.—THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COFFIN.—HEALTHY CUPID.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at McManis' Hall, 412 Broadway.—A LA VARIETE OF AND LAUGHABLE ENTERTAINMENT.—COMES TO DALLAS, AC. THE FENIAN'S GATE.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—HAROLD'S ORPHAN.

ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS.—SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUE.—THE BLACK COFFIN.—HEALTHY CUPID.

THE BUNYAN TABERNACLE, Union Hall corner of Twenty-third street and Broadway, at 7½.—MOVING MINOR OF THE FENIAN'S PROGRESS.—SIXTY MAGNIFICENT SCENES. Matinee Wednesday and Saturday at 3 o'clock.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—HEAD AND NECK.—ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN BODY.—Lectures by Dr. J. M. Wilson, M.D., at 8 A.M. and 10 P.M.

INSTITUTE OF ART (Gerry Gallery), 618 Broadway.—GRAND EXHIBITION OF THE "REPUBLICAN COURT" IN THE DAYS OF LINCOLN.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, March 15, 1867.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

By the Atlantic cable we have a news report dated yesterday evening, March 14.

Four British gunboats have been despatched to Ireland to be stationed at "different places in the river Liffey," a river which flows from its source in the mountains of Wicklow to Dublin bay. The Fenian troubles are not ended. The insurgents suffer fatally, it is said, from cold in the Wicklow mountains.

The Italian election returns are in a very confused state. Garibaldi heads the opposition to the Cabinet.

Consols closed at 90½, for money, in London. United States five-twentieths were at 74½ in London. The Liverpool cotton market closed firm at an advance of ¼ of a penny. Breadstuffs firm. Provisions steady.

An important debate took place in the English House of Commons on the 28th of February, on the occasion of the second reading of the bill for the confederation of the British North American colonies. Mr. Adderley moved the measure. Mr. Cardwell supporting it warmly.

Mr. John Bright urged that the people of Nova Scotia should be afforded the right to express a deliberate opinion on such an important subject, and ridiculed the idea that any large party in the United States wished to force the annexation of Canada to the Union, as the colonists were of their own volition gradually adopting the American plan of government. Mr. Watkin delivered an animated and significant speech in support of the bill, in the course of which he made use of the following sentences:—"At the present moment more than one-half of the whole North American continent was under the dominion of the British Crown, and did the honorable member think that it would be to the advantage of the British empire and of civilization that one-half of the North American continent should be annexed to the United States?"

As long as they possessed these provinces and adopted a system that was almost free trade, it would be impossible for the United States to pursue what he might call a Japanese policy. If they could not defend Canada, with the assistance of Canada, could they defend Ireland? The argument that was used for giving up Ireland would have equal force in regard to Ireland. The British empire was indivisible.

Our special correspondence from Vienna and Frankfurt-on-the-Main, with the newspaper mail reports published to-day, contain very valuable material in detail of our cable despatches to the 24th of March.

It will be seen that the police and military have tried to "lasso" the Fenians with rope in the Kerry mountains, Ireland, but failed to catch even one.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday several petitions were presented and referred. A bill was reported back formally authorizing the Atlantic Telegraph Company of New York to make soundings and lay a cable on the American coast. Mr. Sumner introduced a bill authorizing the Postmaster General to contract for the weekly transportation of a mail between New York and Bremen. Some other business of an unimportant nature was transacted, after which Mr. Trumbull called up the Supplementary Reconstruction bill. Mr. Drake offered an amendment authorizing the registered voters to decide whether they should have a convention or not. A lengthy debate ensued, during which Mr. Fessenden declared that rather than force the people of the South back into the Union he would keep them out. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 17 yeas to 27 nays. Mr. Drake then offered another amendment requiring the electors to vote by closed ballot, and providing that such should be the mode of voting in future, unless otherwise ordered by a vote of Congress. Messrs. Conkling, Fessenden, Doolittle, Wilson, Henderson, Buckalew and Corbett spoke against the amendment, denouncing secret ballots. Pending the discussion the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

In the House Mr. Corvode offered a resolution calling for a select committee to investigate certain charges of irregularities in the Treasury Department. Mr. Chandler objected, the resolution was over. A bill was introduced fixing the time for the election of Representatives and Delegates to Congress; also one making eight hours a day's work for all mechanics and laborers employed by the government. A petition asking that the same privileges be extended to sailors as are now extended to soldiers was presented. A resolution was offered instructing the Committee on Elections to report whether Mr. Hunt or Mr. Chilcote was entitled to the seat as Delegate from Colorado.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate yesterday several petitions were presented for the extension of the Excise law. A number of bills of a local character were reported and introduced. The New York Surface and Underground Railway bills were made the special order for the evening. The bill was passed appropriating \$150,000 for Hudson river improvements. The bill increasing the powers and duties of the Metropolitan Board of Health was advanced to a third reading. In the evening session the Broadway Surface Railroad bill was taken up. Several amendments were offered and acted upon, and the bill was reported complete. The Metropolitan Railroad bill was next taken up, and ordered to a third reading. On the call for the yeas and nays the Broadway Surface Railroad bill was also ordered to a third reading by a vote of 15 to 11.

In the Assembly bills giving \$250,000 State aid to the construction of the Whitehall and Flatbush Railroad; authorizing the Metropolitan Transit Company to build certain railroads in New York, and making an appropriation of \$500,000 towards the erection of the new Capitol were ordered to a third reading. The afternoon session of the Assembly was devoted principally to local bills. The bill to remove the obstructions from the wharves and piers of New York was advanced to a third reading. On motion of Mr. Travis the Cross-Town Railroad bill was taken up and passed by a vote of 98 to 5. The Assembly then adjourned.

The Conference Committee of the Legislature have agreed upon a bill calling a Convention. The election is to take place on the fourth Tuesday in April. Colored men are allowed to vote, but rebels and deserters are to be excluded. The Convention is to meet at Albany on the fourth Tuesday in June.

THE CITY.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon and passed a resolution appointing a committee to proceed to Washington and urge upon the government the necessity of settling the claims of the city for money expended in 1861-62 in furnishing United States troops with arms, ammunition, &c. The Board took up the city tax levy for 1867 and concurred in all the amendments. A resolution was adopted to appoint a janitor for the City Library at a salary of \$1,000 per annum.

The Board of Councilmen held no meeting yesterday, a quorum not being present at the call of the roll. President Brinkman declared the Board adjourned till Monday at four o'clock.

The Board of Health met yesterday, and a lengthy report from the committee was read. In this document the committee stated that it had reason to believe the cholera would appear in New York this year, and urged that the Legislature be requested to promptly provide a suitable place for a quarantine station. Mr. Bergen favored the adoption of the report, but did not believe that because there was cholera in the city last year it would be certain to reappear this summer. The report was adopted.

The Hudson river has been virtually opened to commerce, and preparations have been made by the numerous steamboat companies for the summer trade. Quite a number of boats are going ready to ply between this city and the different points on the river. The propeller Napha made the first trip to Hudson City, arriving there at a quarter past one yesterday.

Business at the Fenian headquarters continued brisk yesterday. Arms and money were still being sent in, and several deputations from circles of the Roberts faction had arrived and tendered aid to the men in Ireland.

A complimentary dinner was given at Delmonico's last evening to John Francis Mearns, M.P., by his Irish friends in this city. The affair was quite successful, and was characterized by able addresses from Charles O'Connor, who presided; J. F. Maguire, the guest of the evening; Wm. M. Kvarie, Mayor Hoffman and others.

The seventeenth Annual Commencement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons took place at St. John's Hall last evening.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on ninety-nine students.

In another column will be found an interesting article on the reckless waste of Croton water.

The present and prospective condition of the labor market is exciting considerable interest among the working classes of the city. Advanced rates of remuneration, with few exceptions only, are contemplated by the men of the building trades. Shipbuilding is dull, and the mechanics employed in it are working at reduced wages. The present unsettled state of the labor market has been unparalleled for years.

Albert D. Richardson, formerly a war correspondent of the Tribune, was shot on Wednesday night last in Amity street, by Daniel McFarland, a lawyer, whose jealousy had been aroused by a supposed improper intimacy between Richardson and Mrs. McFarland. Three shots were fired, one of which took effect in Richardson's thigh, but did not inflict a serious wound. Richardson declined to prosecute McFarland. The friends of Mr. Richardson state that there was no improper intimacy between him and Mrs. McFarland, but that the lady's husband, by his ill treatment had forced her to leave him and institute proceedings for a separation. Mr. Richardson was merely acting as her protector on the way from the theatre.

A motion was made in the Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, in the case of James A. Patterson vs. the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, and same vs. the Virginia and Fauquier Railroad Company, to strike out the answers as sham and irrelevant, and for judgment on the ground of frivolousness. The actions were brought on overdue coupons of these corporations. Decision reserved.

In the Supreme Court, Circuit, Part 3, an action was brought yesterday by Mary Butler vs. John McCalland et al., proprietors of the Broadway and Twenty-third street line of stages, laying damages at \$10,000 for injuries resulting from the alleged negligence of a driver of one of their stages, in running over the plaintiff in 1863. The jury found for the plaintiff in the sum of \$1,000 damages.

An action was brought yesterday in the Supreme Court, Circuit, Part 1, by Wolf Benedict vs. Bernard Wolf for alleged false arrest and imprisonment in March, 1866, laying damages at \$2,000. The defendant, it is alleged, extorted from plaintiff \$300 and a contract not to prosecute for false imprisonment as the conditions of his release. Case still on.

The case of Morris Phelan, the milkman, indicted by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for inhumanly torturing a large number of cows by keeping them in a badly ventilated and dark stable, was continued yesterday before Justice Cornell at the City Hall Police Court, Brooklyn. Some additional evidence for the defence was put in and the case adjourned until Saturday, when the arguments of counsel will be heard.

The president, superintendent and attorney of the New York and Bremen Steamship Company, together with a Sandy Hook pilot, have been held to bail in the sum of \$10,000 each to answer a charge of illegally resisting the Marshal while executing a process against the steamship Malak.

The stock market was firm yesterday. Gold closed at 134½.

The steadiness of gold exerted a very favorable influence on the merchandise market yesterday, and there was less depression than for some days. The movement in breadstuffs continued active, and prices again advanced. Flour was 10c. a 15c. better, with exceptional sales at an advance of 15c. to 25c. Wheat was held firm at 55c. a 55c. advance, which checked sales. Corn was quoted by the cable news and advanced 2c. a 4c. per bushel, closing about 1c. below the extreme price paid. Pork was firmer, with more doing. Beef and lard ruled steady, with a fair demand. Freight was quiet. Whiskey was unchanged. Naval stores were more active and firmer. Petroleum was more active.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our Panama correspondence to March 8, reports the prevalence of yellow fever at that port. Sixteen deaths from the disease had occurred on board the United States steamer Jamestown. The executive officer, John Adams, died on Washington's birthday, and the paymaster and another officer were in a critical state.

A letter to Minister Romero, dated La Providencia, Feb. 10, states that the French still occupied Acapulco. Gen. Diego Alvarez, with four thousand men well armed and equipped, had started to join the liberal forces in the valley of Mexico.

The Democratic State Convention of Rhode Island met at Providence yesterday and nominated Lyman Pierce for Governor, and Gideon H. Durfee for Lieutenant Governor. Resolutions were passed denouncing frequent tampering with the laws and trusting in the Judiciary to shield the people from unwise and arbitrary acts.

The Michigan Democratic State Convention met yesterday at Detroit, and nominated S. M. Green for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and W. M. Ferry, Jr., and E. Wells for Regents of the University. Resolutions were passed denouncing the Military bill unconstitutional, arbitrary and revolutionary.

The East Baltimore Conference met at Frederick City on the 13th instant, and transacted a large amount of business.

The lower branch of the Massachusetts Legislature ratified the constitutional amendment yesterday, by a vote of 120 yeas to 20 nays. Two days previous to the vote Walker, the colored member, made a long speech denouncing the amendment.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of Connecticut Democrats was held at Middletown yesterday evening. Speeches were made by ex-republicans, and the defeat of the showman Barnum was declared certain.

Our despatches from the West report the rivers as still rising and flooding the country in every direction. Great suffering existed along the Tennessee river in consequence, and the Mayor of Chattanooga had been compelled to seize food for the starving. Twenty-five bodies were seen floating past Bridgeport, Ala. In Arkansas the same terrible state of affairs existed. Twenty-seven lives were lost at Helena.

Our Frederickburg correspondent mentions a meeting of negroes in that city, at which the radical doctrine of Hancock were denounced by a colored orator.

Elsewhere is published the opinion of the United States Supreme Court in the New York tax cases, affirming the right of the State to tax the shares of national banks and placing the highest judicial construction upon the National Bank act.

Two prize fights are announced to come off in California—one between Dooney Harris and Tommy Chandler, for \$2,000 a side, and the other between Devine and Johnson, for \$900 a side.

Our Financial Situation.—A Message from the President Wanted.

President Johnson has a better opportunity than he or any of his predecessors ever had to make a great name. The question of our financial situation is one of vast magnitude, and the country needs a statesman to handle it. We see it looming up already above other questions, and in a short time it must become the paramount and absorbing one. If we mistake not the political agitation arising out of slavery, the negro and the war has nearly run its course. At all events Mr. Johnson can make nothing out of that. It has passed beyond him. All he has to do in this matter is to faithfully execute the laws which have been passed in a constitutional manner, however much he may differ with those who made them. But on the new and great question of our financial affairs, upon which parties will be formed hereafter, it is both his duty and policy to lay down a platform of sound principles and to point out the way of safety for the country.

It is evident the President has begun to give this subject serious attention. The communication we published from the Citizen a few days ago, which was by authority, shows this. It is clear, too, that he has some correct views about our financial situation, though others are somewhat exaggerated and not very well defined. With his strong common sense and honest purpose he may by earnest application soon master the subject. True, it is a comprehensive and difficult one; but he has mapped out for him the experience of other nations, particularly of England, to guide him. The dangerous rocks and shoals upon which other countries have split stand out prominently in history, warning us to avoid them. As the President, then, sees the importance of this financial question—sees that it is going to be soon the absorbing one in our public affairs—we advise him to call around him the ablest men of the country and to obtain all the light he can from those who have made it their study. Then let him lay before the people and Congress such a comprehensive and statesmanlike message as will arouse public attention, inspire confidence and lead to a solution of the difficulties that surround us. This is what the country wants just now, and the opportunity is a splendid one for Mr. Johnson.

In treating the subject of our financial situation we should begin by laying down certain fundamental principles. First, it is necessary that the legislation of Congress in all things relating to the matter should be of such a character as to inspire confidence in the ability of the government to meet its liabilities and pay the national debt, and in the disposition of the people to bear taxation for this purpose. We are convinced that the American people do not entertain for a moment the idea of repudiation, notwithstanding the rather gloomy forebodings of the President. Burdensome as the debt is they wish and intend to pay it. But there would be a limit to forbearance if the weight were to be made insupportable by reckless and extravagant legislation—by piling up one burden upon another in the manner Congress has been doing for some time past. Nor will the people be content to have the debt perpetuated, as the debts of Great Britain and other monarchical and aristocratic countries are; for they would not consent to pay in the way of interest for all time to come an amount annually greater than the current expenditures of the government. They do not regard a national debt a blessing. National debts have proved a great curse to the industrious masses of European countries, though they may have benefited and sustained monarchical institutions and the aristocratic classes through the moneyed oligarchies they created; but the people of this country are wise enough to see that the perpetuation of a great national debt would be dangerous to our social and republican institutions. We must, therefore, make the debt as light as possible and provide for its payment in order to establish confidence and avoid the possibility of repudiation. In order to attain this object Congress must abandon its extravagant legislation in enormous bounty bills and other reckless measures. Unless there be a change from this extravagance to economy the people will lose confidence and chafe under the burdens imposed upon them.

President Johnson should lay such views as these before the country and point out specifically where retrenchment can be made and economy practiced. If he will do this and show at the same time the wasteful and reckless legislation of Congress the people everywhere will applaud him and rally to his support; for nothing arouses them more than that which touches their pockets; and, as we have said before, the financial question is going to be the absorbing one.

One of the most urgent measures in the way of economy, as well as for the general interests of the industrial classes, would be the repeal of the National Bank act. The national banks are drawing twenty millions a year from the profits of their circulation, all of which the government could save and apply to the liquidation of the debt. To accomplish this it is only necessary to withdraw the national bank currency, and in place of that issue legal tenders. Three hundred millions of the interest bearing bonds deposited by the banks for their circulation could be bought up by these legal tenders and cancelled. Instead of the banks receiving the profits on a circulating medium to which they have no right the government and people would receive them. That is all the difference. We should at the same time have a better and a uniform currency. We call upon the President, therefore, to take up this important matter also in the message we recommend him to issue.

Another and perfectly fair plan of lessening the burden of the national debt is to pay off the accruing debt as it becomes due with legal tenders. The government could do this at the market value, the same as individuals. These legal tenders should be made convertible, at the option of the holder, into three per cent interest bearing bonds or consols. The volume of currency would not become excessive, because as soon as money became very abundant or cheap it would find its way into these consols. Injustice would be done to no one, because the action of individual holders of the accruing debt and of the legal tender currency would be voluntary. The whole community would be benefited at the same time, through a reduction of the interest on the debt and their taxes.

These measures, with the establishment of a permanent sinking fund and a modification of

our revenue laws so as to raise a sufficient revenue, at little cost, on a few articles of luxury and general use mainly, would lighten the burden of the debt very much and prevent any thought of repudiation. The people would pay their taxes cheerfully and have the happiness of seeing the debt reduced from year to year, with the prospect of its liquidation at no distant day. Will Mr. Johnson take up the financial condition of the country with such views as these? If he should, he may depend upon the support of the people. If he should not, some one else will, and he will lose a splendid opportunity to immortalize his name; for the question is pressing and its solution inevitable.

Railroads and Telegraphs.—Necessity of Government Control.

We recently called attention to the revolution that is about to be effected in our present railroad and telegraph systems by the success of the pneumatic principle, as demonstrated in London. When it is established that a speed of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles an hour can be obtained, with the most perfect safety and at a great reduction on the present cost of railway travelling, it is easy to see how it is going to disturb the interests embarked in the existing system of locomotion. Competition will be entirely out of the question, and the present railroad corporations will either have to abandon the field or unite their interests with those of the pneumatic lines. Although the telegraph companies may not be affected to the same extent it is evident that they must suffer considerably from the opposition which the speed of transmission secured by the new principle will create. No one will pay an exorbitant price for an abbreviated and incorrectly worded message or document when he can have the original placed in his hands almost as soon as a telegram would reach him.

But in considering the great changes that the pneumatic system must bring about we must not forget that the advantages which it offers us may be very much curtailed by the efforts of speculators and monopolists, unless we take care to guard against their interference. It will not do to let the control of a system which is destined to revolutionize the whole carrying traffic of the country pass into the hands of corporations amenable to no responsibility. Under our present railroad system the comfort, convenience and safety of the public are matters of secondary consideration. No provision is made for compelling attention to the proper construction and maintenance of lines, to the regularity of travel or to the facilities of transmission from one road to the other. Built without system, managed without economy and serving merely to promote the interests of a few great capitalists, it is no wonder that our railroads should neither give satisfaction to the public nor the great body of their stockholders. When, therefore, we undertake the reconstruction of the entire system, as the adoption of the pneumatic principle will compel us to do, we must take care that these causes of complaint shall be guarded against and that the change shall be one permanently beneficial to all concerned.

In France railroads are so managed that there is but little chance for individual interests to interfere with those of the public. The supervision established by the government is extremely strict, and no detail escapes its vigilant eye. In the first place, no new line is allowed to be undertaken unless it conforms to the general plan laid down by it. This secures uniformity and facility of transfer as well as economy in the arrangements of the different companies. Then the estimates for construction, the amount of capital paid up and the guarantees for the proper completion and maintenance of the road in good working order, have all to be submitted to and to be approved of by the Minister of Public Works. The result is that the French railroads are not only the best managed, but the best paying in the world.

It is a system of this kind which, without interfering too much with private enterprise, would bring the whole of the railroads and telegraphs of the country under the control of a government department, managed by a capable minister, that would best satisfy the views and wishes of our people. We should then hear no more of badly invested capital, of wasteful contracts, of monopolies of stock or of wholesale railroad massacres. If these results were not reached it would be the fault of the people at large; for, the control of the whole system being in the hands of the government, the administration would be responsible to them for its shortcomings. At the elections questions of reform in connection with it would become of leading importance, and thus we should arrive gradually at the most perfectly managed and the most economical systems of locomotion and telegraphing that science and legislative wisdom can devise.

Government Strength in the French Legislature.

The French Legislature is classed into three bodies, namely, the "right," or government party (so called from sitting on the benches to the right of the speaker, *l'Orateur*); the "left," or opposition party, sitting to the left of the speaker; the "third party" (*tiers parti*), sitting as they please, who correspond with the independent members of the English Parliament. The late debate in the Chamber shows the strength of the three parties, the government numbering some one hundred and eighty votes, the opposition twenty-five and the third party sixty-one—presuming that all the members were present. M. Jules Favre is the leading man of the opposition and a very able debater and speaker. From this it will be seen that even if the third party joined the opposition on any question the two would be largely outvoted by the government side.

Garibaldi on the Italian Elections.

Garibaldi's stirring address to the Italian people, published in the HERALD a few days since, on the present elections is censured by political men in Italy who seriously desire to consolidate the situation of the country. The *Nazione* exclaims:—"Woe to Garibaldi if he is to be judged by his words and by his writings rather than by his actions. It would seem that he undertakes to destroy with his pen the results gained by his sword." It is likely that Garibaldi is irritated by the success of the Pontifical government in negotiations with the Italian Envoy, Signor Torelli, for which there is a sort of jubilation now going on at Rome in ecclesiastical circles.

Political Morality in the United States.

That any party organization seeking to be an influencing if not a ruling power in the State should have for its basis a system of principles large, important and well defined is a truism which no one having any acquaintance with the character of party government will for a moment question. Nor is it less certain that in proportion as these principles are the offspring of a sound and healthy morality so is the party which is guided by them, and which, by devotion and self-sacrifice, labors for their final triumph, whether successful or not, entitled to the gratitude of their countrymen and to the respect and admiration of the world. The statesmen who founded the American republic were noble examples of the qualifications to which we allude. They had a policy, a sound, healthy, moral policy; and it is not the least of their many titles to the gratitude of posterity that they knew what that policy was and nobly worked it out. To the impetus which by their characters they gave to the infant republic we are indebted for not a little of that success of which we are so justly proud.

When at the Pittsburg Convention in 1854 the great republican organization took practical shape and declared that it had for its object the extinction, within the limits of the Union, of those twin relics of barbarism, slavery and polygamy, it was felt by many that there now existed a party which was entitled to public confidence and which would scarcely fail of success if its avowed principles were adhered to and its objects were wisely and faithfully pursued. That party has labored, but it has not labored in vain. It has spent its strength, but it has not spent its strength for naught. After much toil and pain and sacrifice one of the twin relics of barbarism has been removed; and it requires but a fixed determination to insure the immediate removal of the other. Slavery is no more, and there is power enough in the hands of the government to destroy polygamy tomorrow. The republican party has thus been eminently successful, but it has been successful mainly because, ostensibly at least, it has been guided by certain great principles. No one, in fact, looking impartially at the two great political parties which have ruled this country in recent years, can refuse to admit that failure or success has been determined chiefly, if not entirely, by the absence or the presence of a high moral purpose. The democratic party fell because it had no such purpose; the republican party rose and triumphed because it had. The history of this republic, therefore, but repeats and gives weight to the lesson otherwise and elsewhere taught, that in a free country no party, unless identified with great moral principles, can permanently hold the reins of government. Whatever may be the faults of the individual, the great public, as a rule, is sound and healthy at the core, and in spite of occasional irregularities is always found in the long run to be responsive to truth. It may be led by unwise and unprincipled rulers for a time, but it cannot and will not be led by them always.

It is a question not without pertinence to the present time whether the republican party has not, in point of fact, accomplished its mission. Slavery is gone, and there is no evidence of any immediate intention to interfere with the peculiar institutions of Mormonism. A new platform is manifestly necessary. We must have a fresh enunciation of principles. What is it that the republican party sets before itself as its object in the future? This is a question which many will think certain present movements warrant them to put. It will be an unhappy thing for republicans themselves, whatever its effect on the nation at large, if success in their case be found to have produced its too common result, and if in the hour of their triumph they forget the means or abandon the principles by which that triumph was won. Indications certainly are not wanting to show that on some of them at least their principles hang somewhat loosely.

What is meant, for example, by this Connecticut nomination? Will the election of P. T. Barnum as Congressional representative convince the world of the continuance of the high-toned morality and lofty purpose of the republican party? What will a man like John Bright think of the prospects of a party which he has so much idolized and held up to the admiration of Englishmen when he sees it stooping so low and allying itself with men who glory in their shame? What is there of high-toned morality, what of lofty purpose, what of self sacrifice, in the story of the mermaid, in the story of Joice Heth and in the story of the woolly horse, even as they are told by Barnum himself? What is the moral of each of these tales? What but this: that success in itself is justifiable, no matter how disgraceful the means and how wretched the imposture by which that success is won? If the republican party would not lend a helping hand to set up successful swindling and deception as its standard of public worth throughout this great, free, and hitherto prosperous country, we bid it beware of such unholy alliances.

Russia on the Eastern Question.

The *Pöhlitz* (Bohemian Gazette) contains an official letter on the Eastern question, addressed by the government of St. Petersburg to the Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The following is the text:—"Russia is not at all disposed to adjourn the solution of the Eastern question. She does not wish to hear anything more said about conciliation between the Turks and Christians. Let the Christians obtain their freedom by force of arms, if they can. Russia will only watch that foreign Powers do not interfere in this war between the Porte and its subjects; for if they did interfere Russia would be forced to take up actively the defense of the Christians. Russia desires that Turkey-in-Europe be replaced by three federal States, namely, Serbia, Roumania and Greece, with a central government at Constantinople." This Russian programme has the great virtue of being intelligible.

A BATCH OF RAILROAD JOBS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

We perceive that several city railroad schemes have been favorably reported on by the committee of the Assembly at Albany, namely, the Broadway and Lexington avenue, the Christopher street cross-town line, the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street line, the Avenue C and the Spring-fifth street railroads. These are but a portion of the different railroads which it is intended to impose upon us. There are more to come. It is supposed

by people who are acquainted with the manipulation of these railroad schemes that the intention is to hook the whole together and secure a railroad on Broadway and a general cross-town line. In this way the axe grinders expect to carry the bill through.

The Law and the Military Commanders over the South.

The military commanders appointed by the President over the five military districts into which the ten outside rebel States are divided are as follows:—First district, Virginia, General J. M. Schofield; second, North and South Carolina, General D. E. Sickles; third, Georgia, Florida and Alabama, General G. H. Thomas; fourth, Mississippi and Arkansas, General E. O. C. Ord; fifth, Louisiana and Texas, General P. H. Sheridan. These are excellent appointments; for not only are these officers men of superior administrative capabilities and approved loyalty and honesty, but each in his district has been tried and has had the experience already as the military commander therein which fully qualifies him to enter intelligently upon his larger responsibilities in this new and comprehensive work of reconstruction. In the next place, in these appointments President Johnson has manifested in the highest degree his purpose to "see the law faithfully executed," and to avoid if possible any further conflict with Congress; because, if we are not mistaken, every one of these commanders in his departmental duties or as a witness before Congress has, to a greater or less extent, come into conflict with Mr. Johnson and his policy in the course of the last two years. General Grant, we are assured, is and has been among the believers in this Congressional policy of Southern reconstruction, and while his recommendation of these officers is conclusive in their favor, the President's adoption of them is the best evidence that could be asked in his behalf as the chief executive officer of the law.

The supplemental bill now before the Senate providing the machinery of State reorganization will probably be passed in substantially its present shape before the end of the week.

It provides for a registration of voters, whites and blacks, under an oath of loyalty, the rules for the election of a State convention, &c., and for the payment of all these incidental expenses—the military branch by the federal treasury, and the civil proceedings under the law by each State concerned. It provides, too, that all these elections shall be by ballot, the object being to prohibit the *viva voce* system, under which bad men might intimidate or mark for future vengeance the voter opposed to their ticket. It was under the *viva voce* system in Virginia, in 1855, that Henry A. Wise, the democratic candidate for Governor, broke down the great and alarming Know Nothing organization of that day. "Watch them," said he, "when they come up to the polls and call out their vote, and you will know them hereafter." Upon this hint Senator Trumbull has acted in providing in this bill that these Southern elections shall be by ballot.

It is to be hoped that Congress will pass this supplementary bill in such a shape as to satisfy the people of the excluded States that in meeting its condition fairly with those of the general law of March 2 they will be restored to Congress. They naturally feel discouraged at their bad luck under the President's policy in having to do all their work over again, and therefore they need some positive assurances that in meeting these new terms they are not to be disappointed in being rejected again by Congress.

The Hon. Ben Butler and the Hon. Fernando Wood.

In the House of Representatives the Hon. Fernando Wood and the Hon. Ben Butler were among the speakers against the proposed appropriation of a million of dollars for the relief of the starving people of the rebel States. Butler squarely opposed the appropriation on the ground of his bitter personal animosities against those people; Wood opposed it on constitutional scruples. He was of the opinion that Congress has no constitutional power to save poor women and children from starvation; for charity thus bestowed trenches upon State rights. In this matter, while Butler makes himself odious, Wood makes himself ridiculous. Why did not Mr. Morrissey step in with the law and the facts and put them down straight from the shoulder? We have had enough of Butler, Wood and Brooks to last for some time. We want to hear from Morrissey. He is an open-hearted man. What has he to say of the constitutional issue of feeding the starving women and children of the South? Let us hear, Mr. Morrissey.

The Fenians.

The Fenians had a wonderful mass meeting in Union square on Wednesday night. In the numbers present, in the pervading spirit of the assemblage, in the drift of the speeches and in the points of applause there was much to interest the philosopher, the statesman or the historian. There is good in this thing or there is mischief in it. What does it mean? The speakers on this occasion warmly advocated active intervention by the United States, or passive assistance, after the fashion of British ideas of belligerent rights in the matter of our late rebellion. But even upon this ground, from all the information that has reached us, we could not help the Fenians. Their risings in Ireland have not yet assumed the character of an organized rebellion, although many Fenians here believe that there is a general revolt and that the facts do not reach us through the cable. It is even rumored that Sir Frederick Bruce, from Washington, has advised his government to send no news by the cable of the Fenians or the operations against them in Ireland, for fear that it may result in another raid upon Canada. At all events the Fenian excitement of last summer is revived here, and it appears to be assuming a deeper and more deliberate purpose. Of course the first necessity and the first demand is money, and money, more cautiously, however, than it was poured in upon Fenian treasurers last summer, is coming in again. But what will become of the money should it again appear, beyond any possibility of doubt, that the revolutionary effort in Ireland for the present is suppressed? The money will be